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NPIC/TSSG/DED-1591-69  
17 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Development & Engineering Division, TSSG

SUBJECT : Trip Report - Contract [ ] - Sepatron Processor

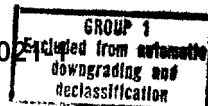
1. On 7 through 11 April 1969, [ ] ESD/TSSG and [ ] DED/TSSG were at [ ] for the purpose of performing pre-acceptance tests on the Sepatron Processor. The results obtained were very discouraging in that the machine met only a few of the original design parameters.

2. The original intent of this system was to process both original negatives and duplicate positive stock in a straight through path using air and liquid as the carrying medium. This approach appeared feasible from the tests performed of a breadboard model of the system. However, the follow-on prototype has been plagued by numerous design deficiencies such as the originally proposed infra-red drying system which had to be replaced with a modified HTA drier which is a serpentine system—thus defeating the straight through processing cycle; the glycerine and water tank heaters had to be replaced with conventional in-tank heaters; the forced air system had to be completely revamped, etc.

3. At the conclusion of our present testing which included transport speeds, tracking, drying, carry-over, instrumentation, scratch tests, uniformity, sensitometric tests, and temperature control, it was decided that the processor simply could not meet the established parameters. Film type 3401 would not dry; film types 2420 and 8430 showed considerable mottling; 3401 and 3404, due to the thin base, would not track properly; the machine needs the constant attention of two operators; the replenishment rates are extremely high and it is very doubtful if the present design can ever be made to operate properly.

4. Prior to the pre-acceptance testing, arrangements had been made with [ ] Westover, AFB to perform test and evaluation on the processor. However, due to the numerous deficiencies encountered, it is felt that the machine should not be sent to Westover for this purpose. Instead, it is recommended that the

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25X1 SUBJECT: Trip Report - Contract [ ] - Separatron Processor

25X1 Separatron processor be shipped to [ ]  
[ ] until a recipient can be found or until salvage action is initiated. This recommendation is made for the following reasons:  
25X1 (a) the Contractor has expended over [ ] on modifications to the existing design and feels that further time and effort would be to no avail; and (b) testing performed thus far has shown that the principle as designed and implemented is not practical.

[ ]  
DED/R&DBbranch-1 25X1

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25X1 NPIC/TSSG/DED/R&DB-I [ ] (17 Apr 69)

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